

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9 and 11-14 are pending. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13 and 14 have been amended. Claims 4, 6 and 10 have been canceled.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9 and 11-14 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, as unpatentable over claims 1-10 and 14-15 of co-pending Application No. 10/753,075.

Applicants note that as per MPEP 804(I)(B), no response to this provisional rejection is required until one of the co-pending applications is passed to issue. Therefore, applicants reserve the right to respond to the rejection at such time.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9 and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Pfaff (U.S. Patent No. 6,124,720). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 11 and 14 have been amended to recite that, “at least one section of the connection pin is made of a resilient material and comprises a curved shape such that a clamping connection is provided between the contact device and the connection pin when the at least one section of the connection pin is introduced into the recess of the contact device.”

Pfaff, as detailed in col. 3, lines 5-9, and col. 3, line 66, through col. 4, line 10, and shown in Figures 1, 3 and 4, discloses a surface mounted socket for connection with a contact device such as a burn-in board. As shown in Figure 1, the upper portion of the contact 13 makes contact with a contact on a semiconductor device. While the bottom portion of the contact 14 (as shown in Figure 3) makes contact with a “surface mounted” contact 41 of the contact device.

In contrast, the claimed invention (as seen in claims 1, 11 and 14) recites introducing a portion of a contact pin into a recess of the contact device. As shown in Figure 3 of Pfaff, the contact pin 14 is not inserted into a recess, but rather rests on a surface mounted contact 41. Furthermore, the claimed invention recites that “at least one section of the connection pin is made of a resilient material and comprises a curved shape such that a clamping connection is

provided between the contact device and the connection pin.” While Pfaff may disclose a contact made of a flexible material, Pfaff does not disclose any form of clamping connection between the contact device and the connection pin. In actuality, Pfaff discloses the opposite, the connection pin 14 of Pfaff is formed such that it pushes away from the contact device 40 in order to maintain a stable contact. The socket device of Pfaff is instead held to the contact device using the stud 50 shown in Figure 1 and detailed in col. 4, lines 40-43.

Accordingly, Pfaff does not disclose or suggest all of the features of independent claims 1, 11 or 14, and therefore, these claims are allowable over Pfaff. Claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 13 depend from allowable claims and are therefore also allowable.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Pfaff. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 7 depends from allowable claim 1 and is therefore also allowable.

Additionally, applicants kindly request that the Examiner cite a reference providing a motivation to modify the Pfaff reference to achieve the claimed invention. Conclusory statements of obviousness, without evidentiary support on the record are not permitted. See *In re Lee*.

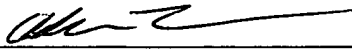
Claim 10 has been canceled, thereby mooting its rejection under 35 USC 103(a).

Applicants solicit an early action allowing claims 1-3, 5, 7-9 and 11-14.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no.543822003200.

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Respectfully submitted,

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